

Statement by the delegation of the Republic of Armenia  
delivered under Agenda item 3: Annual Report of the Director General  
at the 51st session of the Industrial Development Board  
3-6 July 2023, Vienna

Thank you, Madame Vice-President,

I would like to start by congratulating you, Ambassador, upon your election as the Vice-President of the 51st session of the Industrial Development Board. We also congratulate Ambassador Magdi Ahmed Mofadal Elnourof Sudan and other elected members of the Bureau and assure of our support and cooperation.

We also would like to express our appreciation to the outgoing President, Ambassador Alejandro Solano-Ortiz of Costa Rica and other outgoing members of the Bureau for successfully steering the work of the Board.

Madame Vice-President,

Armenia thanks Director General Gerd Müller for the 2022 annual report and recognizes the achievements of UNIDO as reflected therein.

We welcome the focus of UNIDO on innovative, inclusive, and environmentally sustainable industrial development. We are pleased to see the increase in implementation of technical support especially in areas of climate protection and renewable energies.

We also commend the efforts of UNIDO in exploring and promoting innovative solutions for sustainable transition towards climate neutral energy consumption. The Global partnership for Green Hydrogen in industry is an excellent framework to promote and accelerate this transition.

Madame Vice-President,

We reiterate our support to Director General Müller and to his reform agenda of progress by innovation to make UNIDO better equipped for addressing the numerous challenges we face and, in particular, for assisting states in their efforts aimed at transitioning to green development, decoupling industrial development from environmental degradation, to energy efficiency and facilitation and promotion of digital transformation of our economies.

We closely follow the reforms of UNIDO field offices as part of wider structural reforms of the Organization and look forward to seeing the results of these efforts.

We believe that for UNIDO to deliver on its mandate it should be properly and adequately funded, and in this regard the consensus over the 2024-2025 Programme and Budget achieved

at the 39th session of the Programme and Budget Committee is of great importance and we welcome it.

Madame Vice-President,

Armenia was among countries which co-sponsored the resolution on UNIDO's strategy in response to climate change at the 19th session of the General Conference. We therefore look forward to promptly adopting the decision and endorsing the Strategy.

We also attach great importance to promoting the circular economy. We take note of the Report by the Director General on UNIDO's activities related to circular economy and encourage the secretariat to continue engaging with member states, especially developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to promote adoption of circular practices and more efficient resource utilization.

We thank the Secretariat for providing additional information regarding the Innovation and Transformation Fund and take note of the outlined proposals for core activities.

We also thank the Director General for his report on Inclusive and sustainable industrial development in middle-income countries and the Secretariat for preparing the updated "UNIDO workplan for partnering with middle-income countries".

The promotion of technological upgrading and building of capacities of middle-income countries with the aim of supporting the digital transformation can contribute to their efforts to accelerate the incorporation of modern technologies in industries thus taking full advantage of the opportunities provided by the 4th Industrial revolution.

We believe that supporting the governments in developing and implementing their transformation agendas, including by providing the technical advice for necessary adjustments of national norms and standards, is in line with the normative function of UNIDO and its convening role and will significantly increase the capacities of middle-income countries to address their industrial development challenges.

And last, but not least, Madame Vice-President, Armenia as a supporter of the women empowerment agendas across the UN system and beyond welcomes the efforts of UNIDO to mainstream the gender aspect in all its projects and programmes. By saying this we welcome the initiative of Finland and Honduras for the Group of Friends for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women.

I thank you.

